

OPINION 2051 (Case 3179)***Halacarus* Gosse, 1855, *H. ctenopus* Gosse, 1855 and *Thalassarachna* Packard, 1871 (Arachnida, Acari): usage of the names conserved by the designation of a neotype for *H. ctenopus***

Abstract. The Commission has designated a neotype for the marine mite *Halacarus ctenopus* Gosse, 1855 in the taxonomic sense of Lohmann (1893) in order to conserve usage of the names *Halacarus*, *H. ctenopus* and *Thalassarachna*. The interpretation of the genus *Halacarus* and of *H. ctenopus* has been based on Lohmann (1893). The taxon described by Gosse is now placed in *Thalassarachna* Packard, 1871 under the name *T. basteri* (Johnston, 1836).

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Acari; HALACARIDAE; *Halacarus*; *Thalassarachna*; *Halacarus ctenopus*; *Thalassarachna basteri*; marine mites.

Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary power all previous type fixations for *Halacarus ctenopus* Gosse, 1855 are hereby set aside and the specimen labelled USNM No. 44-211-27 is designated as the neotype.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *Halacarus* Gosse, 1855 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Viets (1927) *Halacarus ctenopus*;
 - (b) *Thalassarachna* Packard, 1871 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Thalassarachna verrillii* Packard, 1871 (a junior subjective synonym of *Acarus basteri* Johnston, 1836).
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
 - (a) *ctenopus* Gosse, 1855, as published in the binomen *Halacarus ctenopus* and as defined by the neotype designated in (1) above;
 - (b) *basteri* Johnston, 1836, as published in the binomen *Acarus basteri* (senior subjective synonym of the specific name of *Thalassarachna verrillii* Packard, 1871, the type species of *Thalassarachna* Packard, 1871).

History of Case 3179

An application to conserve the usage of the generic names *Halacarus* Gosse, 1855 and *Thalassarachna* Packard, 1871 and the specific name of *Halacarus ctenopus* Gosse, 1855 (Arachnida, Acari) by the designation of a neotype for *H. ctenopus* was received from Ilse Bartsch (*Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, clo DESY, Hamburg, Germany*) on 12 October 2000. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 58: 202–205 (September 2001). The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2003 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposal published in BZN 58: 203–204. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2003 the votes were as follows: 22 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 2 Commissioners (Štys and van Tol) voted AGAINST, no vote was received from Böhme.

Voting against, Štys commented that 'the author should preferably have applied Article 70.3.2 to endorse Lohmann's (1893) type fixation concomitantly with the establishment of a new species (if necessary) for the misidentified *H. ctenopus* sensu Lohmann (1893) non Gosse, 1855. This would have minimalized taxonomic and nomenclatural changes'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

basteri. Acarus, Johnston, 1836, *Magazine of Natural History*, 9(63): 353.
ctenopus, Halacarus, Gosse, 1855, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (2)16: 28.
Halacarus Gosse, 1855, *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, (2)16: 28.
Thalassarachna Packard, 1871, *American Journal of Science*, 3: 108.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Halacarus ctenopus* Gosse, 1855 as the type species of *Halacarus* Gosse, 1855:

Viets, K. 1927. *Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie*, 130: 87.